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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/373,786	08/13/1999	JAMES LEISTENSNIDER	2449-103A	2940

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EXAMINER

PWU, JEFFREY C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2164

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

N.M.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/373,786

Applicant(s)

LEISTENSNIDER ET AL.

Examiner

Jeffrey C Pwu

Art Unit

2164

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/31/01 amendment.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 2164

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

2. Claim 1, 4, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *O'Shaughnessy* (US 5,978,778).

(Claim 1) *O'Shaughnessy* teaches a computer-implemented method for creating a portfolio of equity of stocks, comprising the steps of:

▸ determining the composition of a predetermined broad based stock index (S &P Composed or Morningstar-col.13, line 59-col.14, line 46) by accessing a database (see fig.1, block 1-4; col.11, lines 21-25; col.12, lines 5-10) and creating a list of the stocks making up the index (col.11, lines 29-34; "sorting records identifying the stocks which meet said criteria in descending order of one year appreciation in stock price into a

Art Unit: 2164

sorted list ; and making available from the top of said sorted list a listing of a number of stocks");

- ▶ obtaining from said database for each stock in said index, data relating to at least market capitalization (col.2, lines 20-34; col.3, lines 14-18 "A comparison of All Stocks (stocks with a market capitalization of more than \$...") and sales (see abstract, "price-sales-ratio"; col.5, lines 38-56 "Value Strategy Implications..."; and col.5, lines 58-64 "Growth investors want high earnings and sales growth ...") of the company issuing the stock;

- ▶ creating an acceptable stock list by at least eliminating from said index list stocks having a market capitalization below a predetermined value (col.3, lines 56-58, col.11, lines 30-34); and

- ▶ sorting the acceptable list by sales and placing into the portfolio, until a predetermined number of stocks are reached, a stock having the highest sales of said remaining list (col.11, lines 30-39).

(Claim 4) *O'Shaughnessy* also teaches a computer-implemented system for creating a portfolio of equity stocks, comprising:

Art Unit: 2164

- ▶ a database (col.11, line 23) containing information pertaining to individual stocks and information (col.11, line 24) pertaining to stocks making up a plurality of known stock indexes;

- ▶ means for determining the composition of a predetermined broad based stock index (col.11, lines 27-34) by accessing said index;

- ▶ means for obtaining from said database for each stock in said index, data relating to at least market capitalization and sales of the company issuing the stock (col.11, lines 27-34);

- ▶ means for creating an acceptable stock list by at least eliminating from said index list stocks having a market capitalization below a predetermined value (col.12, line 6-33, "selecting stocks for an investment portfolio based on information in said database meeting certain criteria; wherein said criteria include selecting stocks of companies with database records indicating: market capitalization in excess of a desired capital amount ..."); and

- ▶ means for sorting (col.11, line 28-39) the acceptable list of stocks by sales and placing into said portfolio, until a predetermined number of stocks are reached, a stock having the highest sales of said remaining list.

Art Unit: 2164

(Claim 7) *O'Shaughnessy* further teaches a computer product having computer readable code stored on a computer-readable storage medium (abstract and col.13, lines 8-14), said computer readable code comprising:

- ▶ means for determining the composition (a sorted list; col.11, lines 32) of a predetermined broad based stock index (S&P 500) by accessing a database and creating in a computer in which said code is programmed a list of the stocks (col.13, lines 8-14) making up said index;

- ▶ means for creating an acceptable stock list by at least eliminating from said index list stocks having a market capitalization below a predetermined value (col.11, lines 21-39);and

- ▶ means for sorting the acceptable list of stocks by sales (P-E ratio; col.11, line 28) and placing into said portfolio, until a predetermined number of stocks are reached (col.2, line 9; 50 stocks), a stock having the highest sales of said remaining list (col.2, lines 19-34; "...only stocks with a market capitalization in excess of \$150 million...").

Art Unit: 2164

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2, 5, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *O'Shaughnessy*.

O'Shaughnessy discloses the claimed invention including usually selecting the top 16% of the database by market capitalization (col.2, line 33).

O'Shaughnessy does not disclose selecting the top 20% of the database. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to select the top 20 % of the database, since where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable range merely involves routine skill in the art. "Where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation." *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955)

Art Unit: 2164

5. Claims 3, 6, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *O'Shaughnessy* in view of *Bloom* et al. (US 6,061,663)

O'Shaughnessy teaches all of the elements claimed with the exception of using the Nasdaq-100 Index as the broad based stock index.

Bloom et al. teaches a computer system and method of using the NASDAQ-100 Index® as the capitalization index and storing computer program product for rebalancing the capitalization weighted stock index (col.1, lines 33-56; col.3, lines 16-26 and 45-51).

The business practice of choosing capitalization weighted indices, in creating a stock portfolio, is an old and well-established business practice and different indices can be used alternatively (see also col.3, lines 26-27 of *Bloom et al.*) or simultaneously in a investment portfolio. This practice is designed to diversify the criteria in an investment portfolio and attract more investors investing in various stock database.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include in the method of *O'Shaughnessy* the NASDAQ-100 Index® as taught by *Bloom et al.* to obtain a more diversified stock portfolio to further include

Art Unit: 2164

any market capitalized stocks in a computer-implemented stock portfolio to seek above-market returns.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's argument that the *O'Shaughnessy* reference do not show a broad based stock index. The term "broad based" is a relative term, S&P Compustat/or S&P 500 is a predetermined group of stocks that consists of an index of different stocks designed to reflect the movement of the entire market, therefore S&P Compustat/S&P 500 is a broad based stock index.

Applicant's argument that the *O'Shaughnessy* reference do not show the step of sorting the index list by market capitalization, selecting the lowest market capitalization among a predetermined number of stocks in the sorted list as a predetermined value below which a stock will be rejected for inclusion in the portfolio, and then sorting the list by sales and comparing each successive stock having the highest sale in the list with the predetermined value to determine stocks that are acceptable for including in the portfolio, up to a maximum number of stocks. In fact, *O'Shaughnessy* reference does

Art Unit: 2164

show this step on col.11, line 18-col.12, line 67, specifically *O'Shaughnessy* discloses selecting stocks of companies with database records indicating "market capitalization in excess of a desired capital amount". And the business practice of choosing capitalization weighted indices, in creating a stock portfolio, is an old and well-established business practice and different indices can be used alternatively (see also col.3, lines 26-27 of *Bloom et al.*) or simultaneously in a investment portfolio. This practice is designed to diversify the criteria in an investment portfolio and attract more investors investing in various stock database. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include in the method of *O'Shaughnessy* as taught by *Bloom et al.* to obtain a more diversified stock portfolio to further include any market capitalized stocks in a computer-implemented stock portfolio to seek above-market returns.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 2164

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Jeffrey Pwu whose telephone number is (703) 308-7835.

Jeffrey Pwu



Jan 26, 2002



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